

## Minutes State Safety & Return to Work Group Meeting



Meeting Date: 10/27/2022

Room : TEAMS

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Time 1:00 pm

### Meeting Attendees

Rob Virts	David Evans	
Amy Jenks	Lesley Farry	
Jessica Arnold	Kirby Fugle	
Julie Balsam	Tina Limesand	
Ted Bidon	Keri Maes	
Herb Byers	Sophie Magnuson	
Mark Carpenter	Joe McAnally	
Matt Chambers	Traci Merzlak	
Terri Christianson	Jeff Plum	
Shannin Danko	Jake Sandau	
Kelly DaSilva	Nathan Showalter	
Katie Erickson	Mark Wlazlak	

### Meeting Notes

#### Rob Virts – Introductions

- Rob is the new Workers Compensation Management Bureau (WCMB) Program Manager replacing Lance Zanto.

#### Sophie Magnuson – Work Comp 101 Presentation


- Presentation covered Medical vs. Indemnity, Premium Calculation, Experience Modification Factor, Premium Calculation, Claim Reporting, Return to Work and Return to Work Grab & Go Kits.

#### Jake Sandau – DLI Safety Compliance Update

- Jake is the new compliance manager.
- DLI staff will now be calling ahead prior to inspections.
- Questions/comments/concerns contact Jake.
- OSHA 300 Log – reach out to Jake or Rob for questions.

#### Rob Virts – State Agency Dividends/ 5% ERTW Funds/ WCMB Open Positions/ WCMB Vision/ MSF Claims Review Meetings/ Loss Run Reports/ WC Class Code Reporting

- What is WCMB? Created in statute in 2007 to address significant rising costs in Workers Comp. WCMB works closely with state agencies and State Fund toward injury prevention, claim management, etc. Going forward goal is to be a trusted partner, work with agencies on current and future risk, provide education support and input on WC costs, serve as a liaison between State Fund and agencies.
- WCMB planning to add a position by mid-December.
- Montana State Fund Claims Review Meetings/Stewardship Meetings – These meetings are part of the contract. Meetings for the 9 larger agencies are done quarterly and all other agency meetings are done annually. Rob is working with State Fund on how these meetings will look

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going forward. Agencies will now have the ability to choose the claims they would like to discuss during these meetings.

- WC Class Code Reporting – NCCI sets class codes. Each class code has a rate per \$100 in payroll to determine total premiums. Changing class codes for a large number of employees can cause a flag when NCCI reviews agency payroll reporting. When managing class codes and making significant changes document the reason for the change so there are no issues when questioned about it in the future.
- 5% Return to Work Refunds – 2023 will be the last fiscal year it will be done. Make sure leadership is aware these funds are going away so they can budget accordingly. Many agencies fund their safety programs with these dollars and some agencies fund their safety positions. First Quarter payments were issued this week. Fourth Quarter payments will be issued by mid-July as has been done in the past.
- State Agency Dividends – MSF Board of Directors met and determined a dividend will be issued. MSF is now using a Flat Rate dividend, which means all agencies will be receiving some sort of dividend. Rob will send out final dividend calculations next week.
- Agency Loss Run Reports – Larger agencies will receive reports quarterly and the smaller agencies will receive them biannually. Please provide feedback on the Loss Run Reports, are they useful, would you like to see something different, etc.

### Meeting Wrap-Up

- Send suggestions for future meeting topics to Rob.
- January Meeting will be in person. Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 1:00-2:30 pm in the Montana State Fund Boardroom.

### Next State Safety Group Meeting

Date/Time

Thursday, April 27, 2023 1:00 -2:30 pm Virtual

Thursday, July 27, 2023 1:00 – 2:30 pm – IN PERSON Location TBA

Thursday, October 26, 2023 1:00 – 2:30 pm Virtual